

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the many police and peace officers across this country who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our families and our communities safe, and to lend my support to H. Con. Res. 135, which authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

During this year's service, on May 15, our nation will honor one more fallen hero from Minnesota's Capital City. Last week my community was stunned and saddened by the death of St. Paul Police Sgt. Gerald Vick, who was killed in an act of senseless violence in the line of duty. Sgt. Vick knew well the dangers of his job, yet he exemplified the great bravery and selfless commitment of our city's finest.

After graduating from St. Paul's police academy in 1989, Sgt. Vick's career had "upward mobility," written all over it, according to the city's former chief of police. His personnel file was filled with approving letters from the chief. Sgt. Vick went above and beyond to protect our community and keep it a safe and healthy place to raise a family. After being promoted to sergeant in 1999 where he could have taken a much safer desk job, he only wanted to get back on the streets to the part of the job he love the most—working with the community.

Twice Sgt. Vick was awarded the St. Paul Police Department's highest honor, the Medal of Valor. The first time was in 1990 when he saved an infant from a burning building, then again in 1997 when he shot and killed an armed robbery suspect who pulled a gun on him. Sgt. Vick served for 16 years on the Saint Paul police force and was a true public servant. Jerry died on May 6, 2005 protecting the community—the job he loved so much. He will be deeply missed by his family, his friends, and his fellow officers.

I wish to express my sincere condolences as well as my thoughts and prayers to all those who loved and worked with Sgt. Gerald Vick.

SUSAN EDGERTON Praised for Service to Veterans

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to publicly recognize and express the gratitude of many in Congress and the veterans' commu-

nity to Susan Edgerton, Democratic Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Veterans Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Susan is leaving the Committee staff after more than 8 years of service, and what she has accomplished in that relatively brief time has literally touched every corner of the body of law covering veterans' health care services. Her achievements have had profound impact on both the VA health care system and the lives of those who enter the doors of its facilities. Prominent among her accomplishments are a heightened focus on mental health, long-term care and specialized services for veterans, access to emergency care and chiropractic care for veterans, comprehensive services for homeless veterans, and improved pay for VA physicians, nurses and dentists. She has been a principal player in assisting Members of Congress in the struggle to acquire adequate VA health care funding.

Before joining the Committee staff, Susan was the Program Director of Health Policy for Paralyzed Veterans of America here in Washington. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and received a Masters of Science in Public Health in Health Policy and Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She has used that education well. Like the majority of successful public servants, Susan has quietly and diligently toiled behind the scenes to improve the lot of those she serves. With great compassion and impressive political and legislative acumen, Susan has made her mark in and on this body, garnering tremendous respect and trust on both sides of the aisle, and also from her colleagues in the Senate and throughout the veterans' affairs community. She has been an extraordinary asset to me, to my staff, and most important, to the noble mission of caring for veterans and their families. I will miss her, and so will a great number of others in this chamber and beyond.

I know my colleagues will join with me in wishing Susan Edgerton well in her next and all future endeavors, and in thanking her for a job exceptionally well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIONS CLUB OF WEBSTER GROVES, MO

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Lions Club of Webster Groves, Missouri, in this, the year of its 80th anniversary. Since its establishment on March 12, 1925, the Lions Club has demonstrated a deep concern and commitment to the well-being of the community.

For the past 29 years, the Lions Club has held a summertime "Carnival & Barbecue." Since 1960, it has been an integral part of the

July 4th celebration in Webster Groves known as "Community Days." The Webster Lions provide amusement rides, midway booths, and delicious barbecued food over 4 days of family fun and wholesome festivities.

In recent years, the Lions Club has expanded its community involvement by donating their time and resources to support events such as "Make a Difference Day," the Fire Department's "Open House," the Police Department's "Public Safety Day," the "Opening Day" of the Youth Baseball and Softball Season, and an annual "Diabetes Screening & Information Day."

The generosity of the Lions Club can be seen throughout the community with the construction of new tennis courts, wading pools, scoreboards, and bathrooms in parks. Some of these items, including the 1939 Flagpole in Ruhe Park, have been symbols of the fine community of Webster Groves for generations.

Furthermore, the Lions Club motto of "we serve" has reached beyond the tangible. More than 50 organizations and programs, including the Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, Webster Groves Historical Society, various college scholarships, and Meals on Wheels, all receive annual financial contributions, the sum of which has exceeded \$2 million.

Today, the Lions Club of Webster Groves remain an integral part of the community.

Whether fostering civic improvement or donating time, money and effort, they are to be commended. I am honored to stand here today in recognition of the past 80 years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF MS. MARCELLE FORTIER CITRON

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great achievements and selfless service of Ms. Marcelle Fortier Citron of Lafayette, Louisiana. Ms. Citron has been helping the people of Acadiana for over fifty years. She began her service work in 1950, when she served as the co-chair for the Hospital Dental Clinic for Under-Privileged Children. During the 1950s she helped establish the Lafayette Day Nurseries, where underprivileged mothers could leave their children when they had to go to work. In 1962, Ms. Citron helped found the Pink Ladies and Candy Strippers for the Lafayette Sanitarium at the Lafayette General Hospital. She then served as the organization's president for three and a half years.

In 1982, Ms. Citron became a board member of the Faith House Battered Women's Shelter. She served on the board for nine years, including two as president. Frequently, Ms. Citron would provide shelter in her own home for the women and the families that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

sought refuge at Faith House. During her time with the Faith House, it was recognized as one of the top five model shelters in the country by the Homeless in America Project. Even today Ms. Citron remains in touch with many of those she helped through the Faith House and often provides them with necessities.

In the late 1980s, Ms. Citron founded two non-profit organizations that have done immeasurable good for Acadiana. Foodnet was created in 1987. Foodnet provides food and necessities for lower income residents in Acadiana's eight parishes. During its eighteen years of existence, Foodnet has collected over 30,000 tons of food for the thirty food distribution agencies it supports. In 1989 Ms. Citron also founded Project RX, a program which provides free prescription drugs for those in financial distress. Today, this organization helps hundreds of needy obtain important and critical medications.

In recognition of her service, Ms. Citron has received numerous service awards. In 1990 she was named Outstanding Woman by the Business and Professional Women Association. She was then named Rotarian of the Year in 1991. Ms. Citron has also been awarded the Lafayette Civic Cup. Though she has received so much deserved notice of her great service, Ms. Citron nonetheless prefers to remain in the background of her organizations. She works not for public recognition but rather solely for the public good. I applaud Ms. Citron's work and commend the shining example of personal charity and kindness she sets for Acadiana.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION TARGETING DEMOCRATIC TAIWAN

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, on March 14, China's unelected Parliament passed its Anti-Secession Law targeted at Taiwan. Later that month, Taiwanese citizens took to the streets protesting the law, while senior U.S. administration officials and U.S. Congress repeatedly and on many occasions expressed their grave concern regarding the passage of the Chinese legislation. The European Union has also decided not to lift its arms embargo against China at this time.

Clearly, the Chinese anti-secession legislation has impeded cross-strait dialogue, threatened peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and, more importantly, allowed the world to see the true nature of the Chinese Communist Party. It is a party that hasn't changed much from the days of the Tiananmen massacre in 1989.

Indeed, despite China's recent economic growth and prosperity, China remains authoritarian. The Chinese Communist Party is the supreme source of power. Human rights violations are widespread, stemming from the authorities' intolerance of dissent, fear of unrest, and the absence of laws protecting basic freedoms. Abuses include torture and mistreatment of prisoners, forced confessions, and arbitrary and lengthy incommunicado detention. Prison conditions are harsh. The government has placed severe restrictions on freedom of speech, the press, assembly, association, reli-

gion and privacy. In many cases, the judicial system denies criminal defendants basic legal safeguards and due process. Thousands of people are detained or serving sentences for "counterrevolutionary crimes" or "crimes against the state," including those arrested for issuing petitions or open letters calling for reforms and greater democracy.

For the sake of peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region, especially in the Taiwan Strait, I therefore urge President Hu Jin-tao to rescind the Anti-Secession Law and improve China's dismal human rights record. As a start, China should censure its bloody Tiananmen crackdown, reverse its verdict on June 4th and release the more than 250 political prisoners jailed for their involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy movement.

China's Anti-Secession Law and human rights abuses need to be recognized by the world for what they are: antiquated measures to impose China's rule on its neighbor and its own people. If China wants to be recognized as a world power, it must act responsibly in a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue and correcting human rights at home.

RECOGNIZING THE SPRINGVILLE- GRIFFITH INSTITUTE AND SPRINGFIELD-GRIFFITH INSTITUTE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ON 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Springville-Griffith Institute and Springville-Griffith Institute Central School District on the occasion of its 175th Anniversary. As a proud graduate of Springville-Griffith Institute, I know firsthand the dedication that the teachers, administrators and staff bring to providing a top-notch education for their students.

Springville Academy was organized in 1825. After Dewitt Clinton penned the school's incorporation in 1827, it opened its doors in 1830, making it the first high school in Erie County. The original school building was a modest one, with most of the funds used to build the school coming from community donations.

From the time of its inception, Springville Academy became an educational cornerstone of both Springville and Western New York, drawing students from all across the region. By 1849, there were 110 boys and 100 girls attending the school. In 1867, the school became known as the Griffith Institute in recognition of a scholarship gift from Archibald Griffith. As the years passed, the school and its student population grew, as did its reputation for providing a quality education. Today, the district boasts an enrollment of over 2,300 students.

Over the past 175 years, the Springville-Griffith Institute has touched the lives of thousands of students, their families, our community and our nation. Notable graduates of the school include: author and statesmen Clark E. Carr, who suggested that his close friend, President Abraham Lincoln, be invited to speak at Gettysburg; Ralph B. Waite, who brought the world "painless dentistry" through the introduction of Novocain; and Glen S.

"Pop" Warner, the man who introduced protective padding, numbered plays and jerseys, and who pioneered the forward pass, spiral, forever changing the game of football.

Schools are cornerstones of our communities, and nowhere is that more true than in Springville, New York. Throughout its history, the Griffith Institute's staff—past and present—have helped shape and positively influence thousands of local students, and continue to do so today. We in Western New York appreciate all that the Springville-Griffith Institute has done to educate generations of children, and we hope for many more successful years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Springville Academy, Griffith Institute, and Springville-Griffith Institute Central School District.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1268, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DE- FENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, every member of this House supports providing our troops, their families and the veterans who have returned from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. The on-going wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other active military and intelligence operations in other countries require planning, budgeting and congressional oversight to ensure the best and most effective use of taxpayer dollars in order to keep our troops and all Americans safe and protected.

Unfortunately, the Conference Agreement on the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriation, H.R. 1268, is a testament to poor planning, the complete absence of competent budgeting and, worst of all, the exploitation by this Congress of the needs of our troops to pass a grab bag of political pork and exploitive public policy. To add insult to injury, every dollar in this \$82 billion bill is borrowed and will be added to our nation's debt—eventually paid for by future generations.

My vote against this bill is a reflection of the inept, incompetent and deliberately misleading policies of the Bush Administration and the Republican controlled Congress. At every point in this war in Iraq, from pre-emptive war to the on-going occupation, there has been a shameless disregard for honesty and a complete failure of meaningful, constructive congressional oversight. With, almost 1,700 lives lost, thousands wounded, some \$212 billion spent in Iraq and at least \$65 billion spent in Afghanistan to date, Americans should expect Congress to be engaged and conducting vigorous oversight, not playing political games.

Where is the courage, or at least the outrage, among members of this House to stand up and say enough is enough. Let us pass an appropriations bill to provide the courageous U.S. servicemen and women risking their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan with the tools to protect themselves, achieve their mission and

come home safely. Let us have the courage and discipline to dump the extraneous billions and the excessively extraneous policy add-ons. Instead, Congress has passed a pork-barrel bill that, for example, restores \$592 million in funding to construct a new U.S. embassy in Baghdad that is not an emergency, could not be constructed during the on-going insecurity and was previously defeated in a vote in the House by a wide margin.

Our nation is now in its third year with almost 160,000 troops occupying both Iraq and Afghanistan. Why was the \$78 billion for military operations included in this emergency supplemental appropriation not included in the regular \$400 billion FY2005 defense budget passed only months ago. That would have raised defense spending to almost \$500 billion, but at least it would have honestly met our obligations to our troops. But foresight and proper planning are not the strengths of this White House and by budgeting properly it would have stripped the Republicans in Congress of a convenient legislative vehicle, a "must pass" bill as they refer to it, by which to supporting our troops is cover for attaching pork projects and politically motivated policies.

This bill, regardless of the margin by which it has passed Congress, is a shameful example of politicians exploiting the needs of a nation at war and the warriors who are fighting this war to advance a narrow, ideological and exclusive political agenda. Since there is no money for Iraq in the 2006 federal budget we can expect another "emergency wartime supplemental" again in the near future and with it the same abusive process.

Among the most egregious and offensive provisions of this bill is the attachment of disgraceful provision call the "REAL ID." The provision adds a de facto national identification card to be paid for by state and local taxpayers. It is another multi-billion dollar unfunded mandate on taxpayers, as well as another example of Republican excess and complete disregard for competent policy making. The REAL ID will make it easier for the immigration officials to send persons fleeing political or religious persecution back to their persecutors and it builds a wall along portions of the U.S.-Mexico border with complete disregard for all laws, including environmental regulations. Furthermore, because the legislation calls for national driver license standards to be implemented by states, it all but guarantees that more untrained and tested drivers will be driving on our streets, roads and freeways. This is not an anti-terrorism provision, it is simply more political grandstanding at the expense of the American taxpayer and hard working families.

There are some good aspects of this bill which I do support strongly. In addition to the needed funding for our troops, there is critical foreign assistance which I support. This includes funds for victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami, humanitarian assistance to the victims of the genocide in Darfur, funds to support the African Union peacekeeping operation in Sudan, economic development for the Palestinian people, international food aid and other bilateral assistance to critical allies. These are proper and needed uses of America's wealth to create stability, security and save lives around the world.

We are at a critical time in our nation's history. The current levels of deficit spending to

sustain the wars, occupations and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, almost \$300 billion to date, plus the long-term needs of veterans, is not sustainable and is fiscally dangerous.

My strong and unwavering support for America's fighting men and women, as well as for our veterans remains steadfast. My opposition to this legislation is a demonstration of my lack of confidence in the Iraq policy and my disgust with the irresponsible fiscal policies of this White House and Republican controlled Congress. The needs and priorities of the American people must come before the short-sighted political advantages of the majority party. The priorities in Washington must change and I will continue to fight to put our troops and our families first, not use them as a political excuse.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAYOR RICHARD J. DALEY'S INAUGURATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the first inauguration of the late Richard J. Daley, former mayor of Chicago and one of America's all-time greatest mayors. His legacy was honored at a symposium last week at the University of Illinois at Chicago, UIC, followed by a gala reception and benefit for that fine school.

This event, attended by the mayor's family, friends and many other Chicagoans was addressed by public servants and members of the media who knew and worked with the mayor. Remembered as a man of strong conviction and dedication to his family, faith and the city, Mayor Daley left an indelible mark as Chicago's longest-serving chief executive.

As many participants made clear at the symposium, evidence of Mayor Daley's stamp on Chicago can be seen clearly today. From its vibrant downtown to its freeways and mass transit to O'Hare International Airport, Mayor Daley forever transformed Chicago into the "city that works." He appreciated the importance of the city's great cultural institutions and core businesses, building strong partnerships that have enabled Chicago to avoid the pitfalls affecting many other industrial cities. His visionary founding of UIC as an urban college for the children of immigrants and working families was perhaps his greatest achievement, making it a most appropriate place for the Daley Library, Archives and student scholarships in the name of the late mayor and his beloved wife, Eleanor.

Through times of great social upheaval and racial tension, the mayor never wavered from his vision of politics and government as "a people business." He maintained his commitment to public education and economic opportunity for all people, working closely with national leaders like Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson toward these goals, which passage of the landmark Civil Rights and Voting Rights laws.

In return for his dedicated service and in recognition of his great love for Chicago, its

residents elected and re-elected him an unprecedented six times.

Still, Mayor Daley made the time to be a loving husband and devoted father to seven children. His eldest son, Richard M. Daley, has succeeded him as mayor, and has built his own legacy as a great leader and urban visionary. Together, the two Mayor Daleys have provided the city of Chicago with outstanding leadership and direction and along with the entire Daley family have shown a sense of commitment to public service that is inspiring. I am proud that, 50 years after the first Mayor Daley's inauguration, Chicago is among the world's greatest and most vibrant cities. May it remain so for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO EDITH SCHAFFER LEDERBERG

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, Senior Volunteer Services in Broward County, Florida will honor Edith Schaffer Lederberg, of the Area Agency on Aging, Area Agency, for her longstanding commitment to Broward County's elder population at its 40th anniversary luncheon on Thursday, May 19. This event provides an excellent opportunity to thank Edith for her dedication and leadership. The Area Agency plans, develops, coordinates, and evaluates programs; funds services; and is the prime advocate for residents of Broward County, Florida, who are 60 years of age or older.

Serving as the executive director of the Area Agency for the past 19 years, Edith has been responsible for overseeing an annual Federal and State budget of more than \$24 million. Under her guidance, the Area Agency has been proactive in responding to the critical needs of our community. In response to a vital need for transportation to aid elderly and younger disabled Broward residents' in their efforts to travel to work or medical appointments, Edith was determined to become a provider. She wanted to ensure that these services would be delivered by caring and capable coordinators. Her endeavor became a reality in 1996, with the Area Agency as a committed provider. Because of Edith's foresight, the Area Agency has developed pioneer programs such as the Noble McArthur Adult Day Care Center—the first such facility in the United States to target the needs of the gay and lesbian population.

Most recently, in a concerted effort to raise funds for aging services throughout Florida, Edith drafted legislation to support aging services within communities. Mr. Speaker, these are but a few examples of Edith Lederberg's countless accomplishments. She works tirelessly each day to ensure that the seniors in our community have the resources they need and deserve in order to maintain their dignity and wellbeing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of Congress for the opportunity to salute this great Floridian and great American.

TRIBUTE TO KCPT PRESIDENT/CEO
WILLIAM REED

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Mr. CLEAVER and I join today to pay tribute to William T. Reed, the President and CEO of KCPT, Kansas City's public broadcasting station, who has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2005. He steps down after 13 years as head of Kansas City Public Television.

Bill Reed joined KCPT in 1992 and emphasized education, local programming and outreach. The station received numerous awards from PBS, the National Educational Telecommunication Association NETA, and community organizations for its local programming and services, including 21 regional Emmy awards and one national Emmy for the documentary, "Be Good Smile Pretty". Four of the station's signature program series, "Ruckus", "Rare Visions", "Roadside Revelations" and "Kansas City Week in Review", began under Reed's leadership. He also introduced viewers to the beautiful writings of Kansas City Star columnist Charles Gusewelle, who this spring will produce his fourth documentary for KCPT, called "Stories Under the Stone". Reed's collaboration with Gusewelle also launched KCPT's home video library venture. Later this year, children and their parents also will benefit from the development of an interactive reading program called "Bark Park Place".

Bill Reed made partnerships and collaborations an important part of the station's business plan. In 2003, KCPT was named Best Place to Work for Community Partnerships by the Kansas City Business Journal. Many of those partnerships, like Chalkwaves, a digital instructional media service for elementary and secondary schools now used across the country, changed the education landscape. Additionally, the Kansas City Regional Access Consortium for Higher Education, KC REACHE, a distance education effort partnering KCPT with nine area colleges and universities, began under Reed's stewardship long before distance learning was commonplace. Other successful partnerships include Network KC, an in-depth news partnership with the Kansas City Star, KCUR-FM, KPRS-FM and UMKC's Back Channel, a student production for the web; and Speaking of Women's Health, a partnership with Shawnee Mission Medical Center to conduct a yearly health symposium for 1,700 women. The TV Dinner and the KCPT Holiday Auction were also created, and a partnership developed with the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority for the Antiques, Garden and Home Design Show to raise additional funds for the station.

From 1997 to 2001, KCPT successfully conducted a capital campaign that raised \$10 million to renovate its facilities on 31st Street and to purchase digital television equipment. The station was among the first stations to go on the air with digital television and was cited by PBS as one of seven Digital Pioneers in public television.

Reed began his public broadcasting career in 1967 as General Manager of KIXE, the public television station in Redding, California. He joined the Public Broadcasting Service, PBS,

in Washington, DC, in 1974, where he was promoted to Senior Vice President in 1978 and worked until 1991. While at PBS, Reed led the planning and implementation of PBS Home Video and the PBS Adult Learning Service and the development of PBS VIDEO—a service for educational institutions. After leaving PBS, he also served as a consultant to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, CPB. Reed served the boards of a number on local and national organizations: the Public Broadcasting Service Board of Directors from 1972 to 1974; the Association of America's Public Television Stations', APTS, Board of Trustees from 1995 to 2001; and American Public Television, APT, Board of Directors from 1997 to 2003. He was elected as the National Educational Telecommunications Association's, NETA, first chairman in 1997. Reed served as President of the Jackson County Historical Society from 1996 to 1998, President of the Public Television Association of Missouri, PTAM, from 1994 to 1998 and 2002 to present, and Chairman of the Kansas Public Broadcasting Council, KPBC, from 1997 to 1998. Reed also served on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's, CPB, Digital Television Task Force from 1998 to the present, and was a member of Video Advisory Committee to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education from 1993 to 2000.

In 1991, the Pacific Mountain Network Board honored Reed with its Governor's Award for Distinguished Service to Public Television. He also served as a private sector representative in telecommunications for the U.S. Department of State to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, 1989–London; as Chairman of the Broadcast Panel for U.S.-U.S.S.R. Bilateral Information Talks, 1988–Moscow; and as President of the Western Educational Network, 1972.

Bill Reed was born in Los Angeles, California. He received his B.A. in History and, following a year of graduate studies, his General Secondary Teaching Credential from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. From 1963 to 1965, he served in the U.S. Army, including one year in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Reed and his wife, Mary Ann, will continue to live in Kansas City after his retirement. A nationwide search is underway for his replacement and his shoes will be very difficult to fill. Mr. CLEAVER and I commend Bill Reed for his many accomplishments on behalf of the Kansas City community during his tenure at KCPT and wish him and Mary Ann all the best in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT CHEN'S
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my congratulations to the people of Taiwan on the occasion of their president's first anniversary in office this May 20th. Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian was re-elected to a second four year term in 2004.

During the last five years, President Chen has been deft in navigating the dangerous shoals between the demands of his people seeking independence and Chinese threats to attack Taiwan. In recent weeks and months, China passed the anti-secession law, codifying the use of force if Taiwan moves toward independence and lavishly entertained two Taiwan opposition parties leaders.

At the moment, there is a "China fever" sweeping Taiwan. Many Taiwanese are lured by China's promise of trade benefits and are willing to make political concessions to China. However, President Chen has been steadfast in demanding that the best welfare for the people of Taiwan must be safeguarded in any negotiations with China.

I believe it is time for us to speak up for President Chen and the Taiwanese people. We treasure our affiliations and relations with Taiwan as we admire Taiwan's political and economic achievements of the last two decades. It is often too easy to forget that all these accomplishments came through decades of hard work. Taiwan today is a beacon of democracy and an island of prosperity to many developing countries, including China.

The Taiwanese people, as we know, do treasure their democratic way of life and their independence. And the person who has their best interests at heart is President Chen Shui-bian. I rise today to support President Chen's handling of Taiwan's relations with China. President Chen is right in pointing out the differences between democratic Taiwan and autocratic China and the importance of conducting direct talks by elected leaders in Taiwan and China.

In the meantime, I urge Chinese leaders to withdraw their missiles deployed on the other side of the Taiwan Strait and accept President Chen's suggestion of setting up a stable mechanism for cross-strait interaction, leading to permanent peace and development in the Taiwan Strait.

Again my best wishes to the Taiwanese people on their president's first anniversary.

THE RETIREMENT OF MAJOR
GENERAL RICHARD S. COLT

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 2005 there was a military retirement ceremony for Major General Richard S. Colt, the Commanding General of the 77th Regional Readiness Command at Fort Totten, New York. He has served his country honorably for nearly forty years. While no statement could adequately recognize his achievements, Major General Colt's accomplishments in service of his country deserve our greatest admiration and thanks.

Major General Colt received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Military Intelligence Branch in 1967 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at Fordham University, in New York City. After completing the Infantry Basic Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, he served on active duty with the Military Assistance Command in Vietnam from May 1968 until May 1969.

In November 1969, Major General Colt was honorably discharged from active duty, and in

June 1978 he joined the New York Army National Guard where he served until September 1985. At that time, Major General Colt transferred to the United States Army Reserve where he served as: Deputy Commander, 94th Regional Support Command; Chief of Staff, 77th Regional Support Command; Commander of the 301st Area Support Group at Fort Totten, New York; Deputy Chief of Staff for Training and Chief of Unit Training, Headquarters, 77th Army Reserve Command; and Commander of the 5th Battalion, 5th Field Artillery at Fort Tilden, New York. On June 20, 2001, he was assigned as the Commanding General of the 77th Regional Support Command, which was restructured and renamed to the 77th Regional Readiness Command in July 2003.

In addition to completing the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Major General Colt has completed the Field Artillery Officer, Military Intelligence Officer, and Quartermaster Officer Advance Courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. He holds a BA in English from Fordham University, an MBA in Organizational Behavior, and a PMC in Information Systems from Iona College.

General Colt has received countless military awards for his service: the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two service stars, the Republic of Vietnam Honor Medal First Class, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation Badge, a Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Since July 25, 1967, Major General Colt has served the United States. He is a living example of honor, duty, courage, and service. I wish him well in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE 2005 STEWARD
OF THE LAND AWARD RECIPIENT,
STEVE SINTON

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steve Sinton of Shandon, California, who will receive the American Farmland Trust's 2005 Steward of the Land Award on May 17. This is an impressive accomplishment as Steve is just the ninth American farmer to win this award, which is given to recognize exemplary leadership exhibited in environmental stewardship and the protection of farmland.

Steve is a fifth-generation Californian and a fourth-generation rancher whose family has been grazing cattle in San Luis Obispo County for over 125 years. He graduated locally from Shandon High School, and then went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado. He began his professional career working as an attorney for the California Department of Water Resources in Sacramento before returning to his family's cattle ranch in 1978. Steve and his wife Jane have two chil-

dren, Julie and Dan, who are both pursuing their own careers, but have also become fifth-generation cattle ranchers.

I have personally known of Steve's leadership and commitment to conservation for many years. In fact, over 20 years ago, I worked with the Sinton family to protect land in San Luis Obispo County. Today, Steve oversees his family's ranches, the Canyon Ranch in Shandon and the Avenales Ranch near Pozo, and manages his family's vineyard on Shell Creek Road. To promote the sustainability of his ranch and vineyard while also protecting the environment, he has employed a variety of original methods, including the use of a unique trellising method to balance the canopy to fruit ratio on the vineyard. Steve has also participated in experiments with cover crops and erosion control.

In addition to his hard work on the ranch and in the vineyard, Steve has also been a national leader in the effort to promote conservation and sustainable agriculture. He was a founding member and the founding chairman of the California Rangeland Trust, which is a statewide agricultural land trust formed in 1998 that has used conservation easements to keep 173,000 acres on cattle ranches undeveloped. Steve also has been active in the San Luis Obispo, the California, and the National Cattlemen's Associations, and has served as the Vice-Chairman of the Land Use Committee of the California Cattlemen's Association. Steve also has used his talent and expertise to benefit the San Luis Obispo County agricultural community through his involvement with the Central Coast Vineyard Team and the San Luis Obispo County Water Advisory Committee. Accordingly, I would like to congratulate him and wish him well as he continues in his various endeavors.

HONORING JOHN G. LAYTHAM,
WASHINGTON RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION DUKE ZEIBERT
AWARD

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John G. Laytham on winning the Washington Restaurant Association's Duke Zeibert Award. This special honor is truly well-deserved.

John Laytham has worked tirelessly for over 41 years for Clyde's Restaurant Group and has helped shaped their success in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. He first started to work at Clyde's Restaurant to earn extra income while attending Georgetown University. He held nearly every position, and in 1968 he was asked to be partner. In 1970 he and his partner purchased the Old Ebbitt Grill, the oldest saloon in Washington, and today the most popular restaurant in the city.

The success of Clyde's restaurant group can be attributed to Mr. Laytham's dedication, keen sense of detail, and good judgment of style. Since the purchase of Old Ebbitt Grill the company has expanded to include 11 restaurants. Currently, Mr. Laytham is working to expand that number. He is simultaneously overseeing the construction of a restaurant in the Penn Quarter and a restaurant in Loudon County Virginia.

In 1992, Mr. Laytham launched the Clyde's School/Work program in partnership with the D.C. public school system. His love for the restaurant industry and concern for the well being of the District's youth helped him infuse the two interests allowing students to learn valuable work skills while obtaining a diploma. This mentoring program was started in hopes of eventually creating a high profile charter school, and with the help of other industry leaders the Marriott Hospitality Public Charter High School was formed.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Laytham for his extensive service to the District of Columbia and the restaurant industry. His contributions and efforts are much appreciated and greatly admired. I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Laytham on his award and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of May 4, 2005 the House had procedural vote on H.R. 366, the Vocational and Technical Education Act. On House rollcall vote #153, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONOR OUR WOUNDED AND FALLEN HEROES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to urge support of my legislation that recognizes and honors the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces.

The first bill is H.R. 2369, "Honor our Fallen Prisoners of War Act". Currently, prisoners of war who die during their imprisonment of wounds inflicted in war are eligible for posthumous Purple Heart recognition. However, those who die of starvation, beatings, freezing or other causes are not eligible for the Purple Heart!

This is not right! There should be no false distinction indicating more courage or more sacrifice by some who died and less by others. All POWs who died in service to our Nation should be eligible for Purple Heart recognition. H.R. 2369 will allow all members of our Armed Forces who die while a Prisoner of War, regardless of the cause of death, to be awarded the Purple Heart posthumously. This will apply to all wars, past and present.

I am indebted to Rick and Brenda Morgan Tavares of Campo, California and to Wilbert "Shorty" Estabrook of Murrieta, California who brought this issue to my attention. Shorty survived the Tiger Camp death march during the Korean War and was imprisoned for over three years. Brenda's uncle, Corporal Melvin Morgan, died of starvation and beatings in 1950 at the age of 20 in Korea.

Today, I am also introducing H.R. 2370, the "In Memory Medal for Forgotten Veterans Act". There are two groups of veterans who I believe need recognition beyond what they are currently receiving. The first are veterans who have died as a result of their service in the Vietnam War but who do not meet the criteria for inclusion on The Wall of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a program called "In Memory" which has raised money for a plaque that has been placed near The Wall. The plaque honors "those who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service." No names are on the plaque, but all names are kept in a "In Memory Book" at a kiosk near The Wall, and families can order a copy.

My bill adds to this fine recognition by presenting the families of these veterans with a medal, to be known as the "Jesus Chuchi Salgado Medal" to be issued by the Secretary of Defense. Chuchi Salgado was an outstanding individual, living in my Congressional district, whose exposure to Agent Orange ultimately led to his death. I would like to recognize his wife, Carla Salgado, as well as and Dan Santillan, who live in my Congressional District in California. Dan suggested the appropriateness of this bill.

The second group of veterans deserving of the "Jesus Chuchi Salgado" medal are those who were exposed to chemical agents, ionizing radiation, or chemical and herbicide agents during their service in the Armed Forces. The medal would be presented to veterans who are still living or to their families if they have died. Thomas Barnes of Whittier, California requested that action be taken to commemorate and honor such veterans.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring and passing H.R. 2369 and H.R. 2370. It is critical that we honor and remember those who have fought so gallantly for our freedom!

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEXAS POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY THIS YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of the following Texas Police Officers killed this year in the line of duty:

Sergeant John Maki, Celeste Policy Department; Deputy Constable Frank "Scotty" Claborn, Harris County Constable's Office; Police Officer John Logan, Huntington Police Department; Police Officer Frank M. Cantu, Houston Police Department; Trooper Kurt David Knapp, Department of Public Safety; Police Officer Darren Glen Mdelin, Grapevine Police Department; Sergeant Gregory Hunter, Grand Prairie Police Department; Police Officer Nathan Laurie, River Oaks Police Department; Sergeant Mike Lane, Beaumont Police Department; Police Officer Angel Barcena, El Paso Police Department; Police Officer Christopher Jerome Sobieski, Prairie View Police Department; Deputy Sheriff Dirk Kneare, Chambers County Sheriff's Department; Lieu-

tenant Rover "Bob" Haley, Comanche County Sheriff's Department; and Police Officer Amy Donovan, Austin Police Department.

Each of these Officers provided their community with tireless, courageous, and gallant service of the highest caliber. They worked to preserve our rights, our homes, and in many cases, our lives—keeping our cities and towns safe for the sake of our children and families. These men and women were committed to excellence in leadership, developing community partnerships and always building for a better future.

It is a great honor to pay tribute to such amazing and exemplary individuals. Their selfless efforts and noble service will never be forgotten.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF BRIAN DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DI- RECTOR NORTHEAST OHIO COA- LITION FOR THE HOMELESS

HON. DENNIS. J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Brian Davis, executive director of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH), for his activism and dedication on behalf of the homeless women, men and children of our community.

For the past decade, Mr. Davis has fought in the interests of justice and hope for Northeast Ohio's most vulnerable citizens living on the streets. Mr. Davis' unwavering energy, compassion and focus has given a voice to those whose voices have been silenced by poverty and hopelessness. For the past ten years, he has edited *The Grapevine*, a publication that has provided an income and a communications medium for hundreds of homeless people.

Under Mr. Davis' leadership, NEOCH has helped obtain permanent housing for more than 425 people; provided 150 voice mailboxes for homeless individuals; provided legal assistance for nearly 900 people; and provided 5,800 people social services and empowerment through the Homeless Stand Down.

Beyond Cleveland's local scene, Mr. Davis has been a powerful voice for the homeless on Capitol Hill and at the State House in Columbus. He testified before the Government Reform Committee at my request to speak of the need for the Passport program for homeless men at a time when its funding was threatened. Mr. Davis was a guiding force and active participant in my Homelessness Summit, an advisory group with more than 200 Cleveland area activists working to end homelessness and advise me on legislative proposals. His energy extended to Columbus, where he worked with a state coalition to secure a revenue source for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Brian Davis, the tireless leader of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless. His advocacy on behalf of the homeless citizens, the formerly homeless, and those at risk in the community continues to offer protection, guidance and empowerment. Because of the dedication and focus of

Mr. Davis, the lives of hundreds of homeless people have been lifted into the light of positive change and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVER- SARY OF TROPHY CLUB, TX

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the town of Trophy Club, TX, as they celebrate 20 years as a municipality. Trophy Club, a town of roughly 7,600 residents, was built on a foundation of individuals who sought to create a unique town with less population density.

It is the passion of those like Jim Carter, Trophy Club's first Mayor, Town Manager Donna Welsh and numerous other individuals who dedicated their support, sweat and money to the incorporation of this small town which has allowed it to be so successful.

Trophy Club became the first master planned community in Texas and that foresight has allowed citizens to take hold of their community and develop the amenities and enterprises, which are wanted by their peers.

Originally designed to be a housing development circling a golf course designed by Ben Hogan, Trophy Club has come a long way from that vision, but relishes that it is the only town home to a golf course designed by that golfing legend.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of a city founded on such sound principles of representation and democracy.

MILITARY RETIREES ARE WAITING—LET'S FINISH THE JOB

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to introduce a bill to eliminate the Disabled Veterans Tax and to provide immediate concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation to all deserving disabled military retirees.

The "Immediate and Full Repeal of the Disabled Veterans Tax Act of 2005 (H.R. 2368) does exactly what it says—it eliminates the years of waiting before all disabled military retirees receive all the retired pay and compensation they have earned and deserve.

For the past several years, our Nation's veterans waged a long and determined campaign to eliminate the Disabled Veterans Tax. As my colleagues know, we were partially successful. But only partially.

The laws that we passed make veterans with a disability rating of 50 percent to 90 percent wait for ten years before their tax is completely eliminated. A great number of these veterans are elderly and, unfortunately, may not live to see that day.

Even worse, fully two thirds of America's disabled veterans, with a rating less than 50 percent, have been left behind and will continue to be taxed as before—nearly 400,000

veterans! Despite the actions of Congress last year, the Disabled Veterans Tax is alive and well.

Our Democratic Leader, NANCY PELOSI, recently stated: "On the battlefield, our soldiers pledge to leave no one behind. As a Nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we will leave no veteran behind. The Disabled Veterans Tax breaks that promise."

Some of the veterans left behind include:

A veteran of the Kuwait theater who had a below-the-knee amputation after being hit by a drunk driver while jogging near the Pentagon to maintain physical fitness.

A retiree who cannot work on a family farm because of pain, numbness and osteoarthritis of both feet due to exposure to cold during noncombatant military service.

A veteran who lost an eye when an air hose accidentally detached from an airplane being worked on and who cannot work as an airline pilot.

A female retiree who has weekly panic attacks and chronic sleep disturbances as the result of a sexual assault which occurred while on active duty.

My friends and colleagues, Congress did just okay by taking the first steps towards eliminating the Disabled Veterans Tax—I would give us a grade of C–, but we did not do A work.

During my years in Congress, I cannot recall more than or two other issues on which I have received so many letters, e-mails and phone calls. Our veterans have been telling us that this is an important issue to them. They deserve that we do A work.

I understand that there are costs to concurrent receipt. But I also understand that the now-disabled veterans did not hesitate when called to duty. Many have returned home with disabilities they have had to lived with ever since. How can we doubt the imperative that we keep our promise and give them what they deserve? They earned their military retired pay. They deserve their VA disability compensation.

We cannot make them wait any longer for justice to prevail!

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BELINDA ELLIS, TOM GREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Belinda Ellis, Tom Green Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Belinda's greatest influence is her mother, who taught her that things in life don't just happen—if you want something, you need to set a goal and work towards that goal a little at a time. This advice led Belinda to become the first in her family to graduate high school, and later college at Southwest Texas.

Mrs. Ellis has pledged over 18 years to teaching, and currently teaches math and science. She believes that having the support and involvement of a child's parent is the key to her success. During her time at Tom Green Elementary, Belinda has raised close to

\$3,000 to buy new flags, outdoor benches, and trashcans for her school.

This past year has been extremely hard for Belinda, who has remained strong, positive, and determined to continue working as normal despite her ongoing battle with cancer. Belinda hopes her enthusiasm for teaching and sponsoring extra-curricular activities touches each of her students.

I am honored to acknowledge Belinda Ellis, Tom Green Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Her passion and dedication are cherished by all in her community.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF MR. MIGUEL CONTRERAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Miguel Contreras, devoted husband and father; a dedicated labor leader whose exemplary work touched the lives of many Californians.

Mr. Contreras was born and raised in Dinuba, California. The son of migrant farmworkers, Mr. Contreras went to work beside his parents and five brothers in the agricultural fields of California's Central Valley at only five years of age.

As a young man Mr. Contreras worked with the United Farm Workers of America. It was here that he found his true calling by learning from Cesar Chavez the meaning of dignity and self-worth. Mr. Chavez saw the potential of Mr. Contreras and appointed him a staff member of the United Farm Workers. It was here that Mr. Contreras learned the importance of speaking up and standing up for oneself.

With this strong foundation Mr. Contreras fought tirelessly for the rights of immigrants. He was an inspiration to many, bringing a special pride to Latino workers throughout California.

In 1993 Mr. Contreras began his work for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO as Political Director. In 1996 he became Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Federation, devotedly serving 345 unions with a collective 800,000 members. He held this position until his unexpected death on May 6, 2005. He will be missed greatly.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Contreras. I offer my deepest condolences to his mother Esther Contreras; his wife, Maria Elena Durazo; his two sons, Mario Salazar and Michael Contreras, and his five brothers Alex, Antonio, David, Juan and Pablo Contreras.

HONORING METROPORT MEALS ON WHEELS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Metroport Meals on Wheels as they celebrate 25 years of service to numerous communities within the 26th District of Texas. The Metroport Meals on Wheels program grew out

of the passion of one individual, Kelly Bradley, who saw the need to aid her neighbors. It was her dedication to others and the generosity of the First United Methodist Church of Roanoke which fostered this program and allowed it to grow into its current state; bringing dignity and respect to seniors in over 19 cities in the North Texas region.

The invaluable support and outreach that Metroport Meals on Wheels provides to these Texas communities is an integral connection for those who wish to stay independent. Last year alone this grassroots organization served over 54,000 meals without the aid of State or Federal funding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my utmost thanks and congratulations to Metroport Meals on Wheels for their 25 years of service to my fellow Texans and those most in need of their support and their humble respect. The generosity of Ms. Bradley and the other volunteers at Metroport is truly making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

A SMARTER APPROACH TO THE BORDER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, as California's Border Congressman, I rise today to deliver a simple yet important message to this Congress about how we handle affairs on our nation's southern border.

To my fellow Members of Congress, I implore you: Don't block clinics that want to help Mexican children with severe medical needs. Don't block border schools from hosting their Mexican neighbors. And don't block our tourism industry from welcoming Mexican field trips. Instead, join me in supporting the VISA Act!

Prior to September 11, 2001, the Valley Orthopedic Clinic in Calexico, California treated low-income Mexican children who suffered from cleft palates or other maladies. In fact, over forty years, they treated 125,000 children! The Port Directors at the border selectively issued humanitarian visa waivers so that these children could briefly visit the United States without paying for an unaffordable \$100 visa.

Since September 11, Port Directors have ceased issuing these visa waivers. As a result, children have been blocked from receiving specialized medical attention, participating in educational exchanges between border schools and taking field trips to tourist sites in border states.

That's why I have re-introduced the Visitors Interested in Strengthening America (VISA) Act (H.R. 2367). The bill gives Port Directors the discretion to issue humanitarian visa waivers to Mexican children making brief, pre-scheduled visits to the U.S. for medical, educational or recreational purposes.

In addition to clearing the way for American doctors who wish to provide specialized care to Mexican children, this bill would boost the economy in the border region and strengthen cultural and political understanding with Mexico.

The bill is identical to legislation that the Border Trade Alliance, National Council of La Raza, former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Jeffrey Davidow and others supported in the 108th Congress.

I urge my colleagues to join me in fighting for this important legislation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF CARLA BANDY, DAHLSTROM
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF
THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Carla Bandy, Dahlstrom Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Carla Bandy considers herself lucky to have given teaching another chance—initially quitting after 2 years because she felt she wasn't cut out for the job. Carla now understands that she made the right choice, and currently teaches Art at Dahlstrom Middle School.

In class, Carla stresses friendship; she respects her students and earns their respect in return. She believes that once she can achieve the trust of her students, the "real learning" begins.

Carla does her best to reach students of all abilities, skills, and interests. She keeps all students equally engaged—from the timid and unsure to the extremely talented. She researches the psychology behind different types of learning in an effort to customize her teaching techniques for each individual student.

I am honored to recognize Carla Bandy, Dahlstrom Middle School Teacher of the Year. Her dedication and hard work reward her students everyday.

ON RECEIVING THE NORTHEAST
OHIO COALITION FOR THE HOME-
LESS LIFETIME COMMITMENT
TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Michael Foley, the executive director of the Cleveland's Tenants Organization (CTO), for his activism and dedication on behalf of Northeast Ohio's families who pay rent for their housing. Mr. Foley has proudly served the Cleveland community and has focused on meeting the housing needs and protecting the housing rights of Cleveland area tenants.

Mr. Foley has dedicated his entire professional career to fighting for social justice on behalf of Cleveland's residents. Mike received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy from the University of Dayton and his law degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law. He has served as a community organizer for the St. Clair-Superior Coalition and was a Field Representative for the City of Cleveland Community Relations Board. From 1990 to 1996, Mike was the court administrator and personal bailiff for Judge William H. Corrigan at Cleveland Municipal Housing Court. In 1996 and 1997 he was an instructor with the Cleveland Marshall College of Law, Housing Law Clinic. In 1997 he began working with the

CTO—Cleveland's premiere organization focusing on the rights of tenants—as the Director of the Rental Information Center. He became the assistant director of CTO in 1998 and in late 1999 Mr. Foley became CTO's Executive Director.

Mr. Foley has worked collaboratively with me since I began serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was a guiding force and active participant in my Homelessness Summit, an advisory group with more than 200 Cleveland area activists working to end homelessness and advise me on legislative proposals. When out-of-state landlords bought one of the largest 55-and-over communities in Ohio's 10th Congressional District and immediately increased seniors' rent by as much as 25 percent, Mr. Foley worked with me, and the seniors, to organize one of the largest tenant organizations in the State. He went on to work with the seniors to organize the largest rent strike in Ohio's history. Mr. Foley has also facilitated the passage of a local landlord tenant act and extended the services his agency provides to include an eviction diversion program and a lead testing program.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Michael Foley. His long-time advocacy on behalf of rent-payers in the Cleveland area exemplify the Lifetime Commitment to Social Justice Award that he received from the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless at the NEOCH Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony on May 13. Because of the dedication and focus of Michael Foley, the lives of thousands of people have been lifted.

PHONE CALLS FOR THE TROOPS!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, we are all committed to ensuring that our troops have the support they need to succeed in their mission and maintain high morale.

As part of this effort, we have taken important steps to ensure that the soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan can make free phone calls home to their loved ones. Last year, we passed a Defense Authorization bill that provided a \$40 per month calling program to these soldiers. And our military hospitals have created ad hoc programs, largely based on privately donated calling cards, to ensure that hospitalized troops can call home as well.

In order to strengthen and expand these efforts, I have introduced the bipartisan "Troops Phone Home Free Extension" Act (H.R. 2366). This legislation would extend the calling program until the end of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. My bill would also extend the program to future contingency operations to ensure that our troops do not have to wait for the legislative process to catch up with their phone call needs. Finally, the "Troops Phone Home Free Extension" Act would extend the monthly calling card program to the wounded to ensure that the Federal government will provide the phone benefit if private donations are insufficient.

I invite you join me in fighting to maintain the morale of our troops, support our military families and give our soldiers the benefits that

they have earned through their sacrifice and courage. Please join me in co-sponsoring the "Troops Phone Home Free Extension" Act!

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF NANCY PHILLIPS IMPACT
CENTER SCHOOL TEACHER OF
THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Nancy Phillips, Impact Center School Teacher of the Year.

Nancy's interest in teaching stemmed from her "lifelong love affair" with the language arts. Following a Bachelor's degree, a teaching certificate in English and two subsequent Master's degrees, she dove into a teaching career that has continued for the past 25 years.

Nancy Phillips teaches English at an alternative school, where students are sent because of past drug use or violent histories. She teaches grades six to twelve, and is challenged to stretch her creative capabilities and management skills every time she walks into the classroom.

Nancy does her best to lead her students gently towards the good things they can find in books, describing herself as a "combination tight rope walker and ring master." She is humble, and acknowledges that when she stays late at work or comes in during the weekend, she is not alone.

I am honored to recognize Nancy Phillips, Impact Center School Teacher of the year. Through her drive and consistent hard work, she is able to set her students on track for whatever challenges the future may bring.

DEMOCRACY AND DR-CAFTA

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance that the Dominican Republic—Central America Free Trade Agreement will have on stabilizing the democracies of the participating nations. While we have witnessed firsthand the benefits than free trade has on emerging democracies, no one is in a better position to describe the benefits than President Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua. His country continues to face serious challenges to democratic reform, yet he is unwavering in his commitment to DR-CAFTA because he knows it will lead to further democratic progress.

Last week, President Bolanos gave an address at the Nicaraguan Embassy here in the United States where he presented Senator RICHARD LUGAR and Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick with the Order of Ruben Dario, the highest honor of Nicaragua. I am including his remarks in the RECORD to reiterate to my colleagues that this trade agreement is about far more than trade.

SPEECH BY H.E. PRESIDENT ENRIQUE BOLANOS
EMBASSY OF NICARAGUA—MAY 13, 2005

Distinguished Guests and Dear Friends: I am in the United States this week with my

fellow Central American Presidents. Together, we are here as the singular voice of Central America bringing a crucial message to the United States Congress. That message is as simple as it is important: pass the Central American—Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement and pass it as quickly as possible.

There is a common misunderstanding about DR-CAFTA in the United States. The misunderstanding is that DR-CAFTA is primarily about trade. Yes, it is true that DR-CAFTA will bring very important trade and economic benefits to both the United States and to the nations of Central America and the Caribbean. This is an undeniable fact. But to truly understand DR-CAFTA, you have to get underneath the surface and see what DR-CAFTA is really about. In its central core, DR-CAFTA is really about "democracy." It is about rewarding a region who has fought so hard to build their democratic institutions and increase the security of the region.

Democracy has made very important gains in Central America in the last 15 years. But many of those gains are not irreversible. As we have seen recently in some of the countries of South America, some people are beginning to question whether democracy and free markets can solve their country's problems. But they are wrong. This well-negotiated free trade agreement will consolidate the democratic gains and ensure that the region does not back slide into the insecurity and violence of previous decades. DR-CAFTA binds the United States and Central America not only economically, but more importantly, democratically. DR-CAFTA should be seen for what it really is: a chance to lock in the democratic future for Central America with all economic and security benefits that implies for the United States. I want all Americans, particularly members of Congress, to understand that CAFTA is a democracy issue more than a trade issue.

Today, Nicaragua's democracy faces a new set of threats. Yesterday's enemies of democracy used pure military force. Today's enemies of democracy have evolved and refined their techniques. Today's enemies of democracy leave the outside facade of democratic institutions intact, while at the same time they hollow out these institutions from the inside, leaving nothing but the hollow shell.

Unfortunately, this is exactly what the enemies of democracy are attempting to do in Nicaragua. As many of you who are following events in Nicaragua know, democracy is under a direct threat. The assault is being led by what the Economist magazine called an "unholy alliance" of the extreme left, led by Daniel Ortega, and of the extreme right led by ex-President Arnoldo Aleman who is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence. Together these two party bosses, or caudillos, as we say in Spanish, are attempting to dismantle some of democracy's most sacred principles—principles such as checks and balances and the independence of the judiciary—principles without which no democracy can be called a democracy.

When the military dictatorship was ended and freedom was restored to our country in 1991, many believed that progress towards building fully functioning democratic institutions would be linear, that is to say forever upward on a steady course. This has not been the case, however. And once again those who value democracy and believe in democracy for Nicaragua are being called to the ramparts to defend it.

My administration will never cease to fight for the independence of the judiciary, will never cease to fight for the separation of powers, will never cease to fight against corruption by government officials. And my administration will fight on every front: we

will rally Nicaraguan people who crave democracy and functioning democratic institutions; we will fight to enforce the ruling of the Central American Court of Justice which in a historic decision on March 29, 2005 ruled against the attempts of the Nicaraguan National Assembly to strip the Presidency of its powers and declared it a violation of the principle of separation of powers. And we will fight if necessary in the Organization of American States with its wonderful and powerful Democratic Charter. And we will fight with the help of the many friends of Nicaragua that are here tonight who have supported the cause of freedom.

Finally, I would like to point out, only eleven days ago, on May 1st at the May Day ceremonies in Havana, Cuba, Daniel Ortega was hugging the dictator Fidel Castro and calling the United States "an enemy of humanity." This would be a scene intimately familiar to both of our honorees here tonight from their days of defending democracy in the 1980s. All of which proves that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, and with the help of all our friends here tonight, together we will meet the new challenges with the same courage and resolution that was brought to the earlier challenges to democracy in Nicaragua in the past.

A TRIBUTE TO LANCE BRET TAYLOR

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Lance Bret Taylor of Spring Valley, California. On April 6, 2005, Lance was traveling on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter when it crashed in the desert of Afghanistan, killing all eighteen Americans on board.

With the brave military personnel aboard that aircraft, there were three civilians, all non-combatants. Working for Halliburton subsidiary KBR, Lance was responsible for providing U.S. and coalition forces operating in Afghanistan with vital logistics and life support services.

A specialist in vector control who was returning to the U.S. base in Bagram from a mission, Lance was, like many Americans, proudly serving his country in other ways besides wearing a uniform. While Lance recognized the dangers inherent to working in a war zone, he was driven by a desire to help improve the lives of others.

Lance leaves behind his loving mother Lori, brother Kevin, his beautiful wife Deborah, a ten-year-old daughter, four stepchildren, and a baby granddaughter. He will continue to be remembered and loved by all those who knew him—not just today, but for as long as the U.S. defends the ideas of democracy and liberty throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the members of Lance's bereaved family and loved ones. Lance's dedication and service represents the best America has to offer and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

WE ARE ALMOST OUT OF TIME

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to join with my colleagues in the recognition of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The contributions of Asian Pacific Islander Americans throughout the history of the United States are widely known.

One of the contributions that has never been properly acknowledged by the United States and by Congress is the part that was played in World War II by soldiers of the Philippines, a territory of the United States at that time.

They were drafted in World War II by President Roosevelt. They did not say no. They fought bravely and gallantly, in the battles of Bataan and Corrigidor, and the bullets did not distinguish between those who were U.S. citizens at the time and those who were citizens of the Philippines. Death did not make a distinction. The participation of the Filipino soldiers was critical to the successful outcome of the war in the Pacific. We owe them a great deal.

And yet, in 1946, the Congress said thank you, but no thank you. Congress withdrew the benefits that these brave men were promised. Although some positive steps were taken in the six decades since the war, we have not properly redeemed that promise.

Congressman CUNNINGHAM and I have introduced H.R. 302, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, and Senator INOUE has introduced a companion bill in the Senate, S. 146. These bills will complete the job and restore all the benefits that were rescinded by Congress. The passage of these bills will benefit the Filipino veterans in a substantial way.

But, at a deeper level, these bills are also about restoring dignity and honor to these proud veterans. Sixty years of injustice burn in the hearts of the Filipino World War II Veterans and in the hearts of their sons and daughters. It is time that our nation recognizes their contributions, recognizes the injustice, and acts to correct it. To those who say that we cannot afford to redeem this debt, I answer that we cannot afford not to! The historical record remains blotted until we recognize these veterans.

In passing these bills, we can make good on the promise of America.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JENNIFER WELMA, HAYS CSID SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Jennifer Welma, Hays CSID Special Education Teacher of the Year.

Growing up, Jennifer always knew that one day she wanted to be a teacher. Yet it was the 1991 State Competition for the Special Olympics in San Marcos which sparked a special passion. She was emotionally touched by

the bravery, courageousness, and beautiful spirit of the Olympians, and instantly knew she needed to be involved with such amazing individuals.

Jennifer Welma now teaches Phys Ed., and has a great time dancing, moving, laughing, and learning with her students.

Special Education has become even more important to Jennifer now that she has a son who is visually impaired and considered disabled. She continues her fight to promote the active participation of disabled students, ensuring their role as a visible part of a school campus. She thanks her son Kameron for the continued inspiration to become a better teacher, friend, and person.

I am honored to recognize Jennifer Welma, Hays CSID Special Education Teacher of the Year. Jennifer's passion and dedication to teaching enriches the lives of all around her.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE REFUGE ACT OF 2005

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a truly novel and revolutionary proposal to create the largest marine protected area in our world. I offer for this Congress' consideration and prompt action the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Refuge Act of 2005, which would provide the maximum level of permanent protection for a magnificent marine system and international treasure, larger even than Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Protected Area. In so doing, my proposal would do for our country's, and world's, oceans what another then-novel and revolutionary action—our 1872 set-aside of what later became the foundation of our National Park System, Yellowstone National Park—did for permanent protection of our treasured and endangered terrestrial ecosystems.

This "Ocean Yellowstone" lives and breathes in the waters of our country surrounding the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI), an equally magnificent chain of islands starting at Nihoa Island lying just northwest of the main Hawaiian Islands and stretching fully 1,200 miles northwest across the Pacific to Kure Atoll. In these waters and among their reefs, banks, and seamounts, and existing as an integrated ecosystem with their terrestrial neighbors, lie some 70 percent of our nation's coral reefs.

This remote and incredibly diverse ecosystem is also home to some 7,000 species, at least one-quarter of which (some scientists say as much as half) are endemic to this area and found nowhere else on earth. It also serves as a *pu'uhonua* (place of refuge) to many species of coral, fish, birds, and marine mammals, including the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seal, threatened green sea turtle, and the endangered leatherback, loggerhead, and hawksbill sea turtles. An estimated 14 million seabirds thrive in these islands and their waters, including 99 percent of the world's Laysan albatrosses and 98 percent of the black-footed albatross population. This also may be the last predator-dominated ma-

rine ecosystem left on the planet—some 55 percent of the total fish biomass is made up of predator species, the natural way of our oceans.

Yet this incredible remnant of a purer world will not survive absent affirmative protective action, for by its isolation it is a fragile world, one where the most seemingly insignificant and benign human interaction can have the most magnified effect. As a prime example, the islands and waters of the NWHI have developed a unique ecosystem whose isolation at one time provided protection from invasive species. Yet today some invasives have become established due not only to marine debris from the Northern Pacific but from fishing, transiting, and other vessels. And commercial fishing and other human interaction is itself inherently invasive, as is evident in the introduction of rats (now eliminated) and the consequences of overfishing, leading the near-extinction of the black-lipped pearl oyster and other species and, more recently, the crash of the lobster fishery. Just last February, as another example, our Marine Mammal Commission reported that the world's dwindling Hawaiian monk seal population of an estimated 1,400, based in the NWHI, has "no tolerance for additional mortality associated with fisheries or other human activities."

Jurisdiction of the NWHI and waters has been shared by our federal and Hawai'i state governments. As an overall template, the islands themselves (with the exception of Midway Island, an unassociated federal possession) are part of the State of Hawai'i (and my Second Congressional District) along with the waters around those islands out to the three-mile limit. Beyond three miles and out to the fifty-mile boundary is the current Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (Reserve), established by President Clinton and under the jurisdiction of the National Ocean Service (NOS) within the Department of Commerce's National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. The waters beyond the Reserve out to the extent of our country's 200-mile exclusive economic zone are also administered by the Department of Commerce in non-reserve status. Midway and its waters out twelve miles constitute the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1988 and administered by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). With the exception of Midway, the islands of the NWHI and certain offshore waters, including some Hawai'i waters and some Reserve waters (except for waters off Kure Atoll), also constitute the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, originally established as a bird reservation by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1909 and now under joint FWS-Hawai'i management.

On the face of it, if one's end-goal is, as is mine, to provide the highest level of permanent protection to the total ecosystem of the NWHI and waters, this structure can work and is, in most cases, working. The FWS is managing its jurisdiction within the Midway Atoll and the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuges toward the goal of full protection and preservation under longstanding and well-established federal mandates and mechanisms.

And just last Friday, May 13th, the State of Hawai'i's Board of Land and Natural Resources, responsible for the administration of all state lands and waters, voted to establish throughout Hawai'i's NWHI waters the North-

western Hawaiian Islands Marine Refuge, together with rules prohibiting commercial or recreational fishing within refuge waters. The Board's action followed a public input process which yielded some 110,000 comments supporting the most stringent protections. As Peter Young, Chair of the Board, said at the time: "We are dealing with a special place, and it's different." For this action, Chair Young and the Board deserve our lasting gratitude.

To complete now this penumbra of protection and truly discharge our responsibility of stewardship, we must turn our attention primarily to the Reserve. Following its establishment, subsequent legislation mandated that the Reserve be converted to a National Marine Sanctuary. Public scoping meetings began in 2002, and the National Marine Sanctuary Program published "Advice and Recommendations on Development of Draft Fishing Regulations" in September 2004.

Essentially, in an effort to forge compromise between the interests of fishermen who operate in the Reserve, the desire of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WESPAC) to retain control over the Reserve, the opinion of scientists and conservationists that the area remains vulnerable, and the overwhelming sentiment of the people of Hawai'i for protection, the Program proposed a management plan that would allow current fishing to continue and keep WESPAC involved in Reserve fishery management. WESPAC, however, subsequently proposed alternative Reserve regulations that would expand current fishing, open a fishery for precious corals, and provide only a temporary closing of the lobster fishery. Final Program Reserve regulations are pending.

This is an opportune, in fact optimum, time, before the Program acts any further, for us all to first stop, look, and listen, and second move to a whole different beat. And in doing so we must first ask this basic question: shouldn't there be some special places in our marine world which are in fact true reserves—truly off-limits, where our marine species can live and thrive in their natural state, without the invasive, extractive hand of humankind? I know in my heart that the answer is yes, and that the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and their waters are where we should just do it.

The challenge, however, is that we simply do not have an existing federal marine statutory and regulatory regime that encompasses this goal. We do have a National Marine Sanctuary Program run by good people with good intentions, administering a number of national marine sanctuaries. But the basic statutory and regulatory authority under which the Program operates and the sanctuaries are administered requires a balancing of sometimes-competing uses, including extractive uses, which is why some form of extractive use, fostered by fisheries management councils such as WESPAC, is allowed in all of our nation's national marine sanctuaries. There is simply not the regime in place to create what truly would be a sanctuary in the literal sense of the word, to forge a world such as my State of Hawai'i just proudly did in creation in its waters of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Refuge.

My Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Refuge Act of 2005 would do just that: establish the public policy of this country that there should exist in the waters of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands one place that is

truly a refuge for our marine world. This refuge would extend seaward from the boundary of the federal national wildlife refuges—with concurrent jurisdiction over those portions also within Hawaii's Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Refuge—out fifty miles to the boundaries of the current federal Reserve, except that the boundary would be further out past Kure Atoll to encompass newly-identified precious coral beds and monk seal foraging areas. The total area of this precious refuge would be approximately 137,000 square miles, eclipsing Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Protected Area of 135,000 square miles.

Under my bill, the Refuge would continue to be managed by NOS through a new Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and Refuges. This is consistent with NOAA's longstanding desire to elevate the current National Marine Sanctuary Program to full office level, and it provides NOS with a management option for marine resources in need of a higher level of protection than that currently provided under the Program. And that office, in managing the Refuge (in consultation with an advisory council including representatives from the State of Hawai'i and the Native Hawaiian, scientific, and marine conservation communities), would be statutorily charged with implementing Congress's purpose "that the preservation of biodiversity and the protection and conservation of the natural resources and cultural heritage of [the Refuge] shall be the exclusive basis for all associated decisions by Federal agencies."

Passage through and activities in the Refuge would be by permit only. Permitted activities would include scientific research and other uses consistent with the purpose of the Refuge. These uses would not include commercial fishing or other extractive practices except in very narrow circumstances. As there are some existing commercial fishing permit holders, my bill provides a mechanism to buy out these permits at fair value.

It is vital to note that this bill is grounded solidly in the cultural heritage and traditions of the indigenous peoples of Hawai'i, our Native Hawaiians. Their respect for the 'aina—our natural world in all its manifestations—in their practice of environmental protection and sustainability, was not just a profoundly spiritual belief but a basic survival strategy. So it is no surprise that one of the principal groups working toward just such a Refuge is Kahea: the Hawaiian Environmental Alliance, dedicated to bringing to our modern world this pu'uhonua for the rare and precious species of the NWHI. And in that same spirit my bill provides, as does Hawai'i's newly-proposed Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Refuge, for continued traditional use of the Refuge by Native Hawaiians for religious, cultural, and sustenance purposes.

Here is a quick overview of my proposed Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Refuge Act of 2005:

Section 1: Entitles the act.

Section 2: Outlines Congress's findings, including the finding that the "waters of the NWHI must be set aside as a fully protected national marine refuge to preserve in perpetuity their unique and fragile ecosystems, habitats, and communities of flora and fauna, as well as areas of traditional Hawaiian cultural significance."

Section 3: Sets forth the purposes and policies of the Act, including the provision that "all

human activities in the [Refuge] shall be limited to those entirely consistent with preservation and protections in the true nature of a full protected refuge, and that all commercial use of such refuge shall be prohibited."

Section 4: Provides Act definitions, including Refuge boundaries and cooperative management between federal and Hawai'i agencies.

Section 5: Designates the Refuge.

Section 6: Provides for management of the Refuge by NOS through the new Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and Refuges in cooperation with the State of Hawai'i through memoranda of agreement and in consultation with an advisory council.

Section 7: Provides for vessel presence in the Refuge by permit only; outlines prohibited activities; provides compensation for current permit holders.

Section 8: Provides for enforcement and penalties.

Section 9: Provides for liability and other legal consequences.

Section 10: Repeals prior inconsistent laws.

Section 11: Requires issuance of implementing regulations within six months of enactment.

Mr. Speaker, I confess to speaking on this floor today with a mix of excitement and awe. Excitement at continuing a journey to a next, higher level that is not only novel and revolutionary, but so right. And awe at the responsibility and opportunity we all have to truly preserve and protect one of the most incredible places on this world. I hope and believe that we can all come together to harness the collective aloha of so many for this place, and promptly pass the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Refuge Act of 2005.

Mahalo, and aloha!

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER "SANDY" ELLENBERG

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Alexander "Sandy" Ellenberg, and to recognize his lifelong achievements and legacy of volunteerism and dedication to public service.

In the Jewish faith, there is a commandment requiring that one give tzedakah, which in Hebrew means an act of "charity" or "righteousness" without expecting anything in return. Sandy Ellenberg was a man of faith, and his life represented a life-long example of tzedakah. Sandy Ellenberg was a good friend of mine and a true pillar to the local community; he was a man of character, compassion and goodwill. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and were touched by his work.

Alexander Ellenberg was born on October 13, 1933 in Stockton, California—the first child in his family to be born in the United States. Sandy worked his way through the University of California, completing his undergraduate degree at Berkeley and his medical degree at UC San Francisco. Recognizing his own good fortune and the difficulty in achieving one's dreams, Sandy endowed an annual scholarship at Cal for a San Joaquin County student to study medicine.

A successful plastic surgeon by profession, Sandy said that he got the most joy from per-

forming serious reconstructive surgery. Through these operations, he could use his medical training and surgical skills to repair damages, correct congenital disorders and bring hope back into the faces of those who suffered traumatic injuries and disfigurements. Twice, Sandy traveled to Venezuela to fix children's cleft palates and lips with Rotaplast International, a charitable organization sponsored by the Rotary Club.

In addition to his work with Rotaplast, Sandy was politically active and socially conscious—an advocate of civil rights, a generous political campaign donor and patron of the arts. He was a visible figure in the Jewish community: an active member of his local synagogue and a past board member of the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley. Sandy lived a rich and full life, and contributed to his community in so many ways.

Sandy Ellenberg died on February 27, 2005. On that day America lost one of its quiet heroes. In a world that is always looking out for the bottom line, where a "free lunch" is rarely ever "free," Sandy Ellenberg was a breath of fresh air. He recognized his own good fortune, and was committed to making success, equality, freedom and happiness available to others. His life was an example of righteousness and unselfish giving—of tzedakah.

Sandy leaves behind his wife of fifty years, Maureen, and 2 sons, Steven and Gary. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their family and friends; Sandy is deeply missed by us all.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life and work of Alexander Ellenberg, a man whose life exemplified goodwill and selfless giving; he was one of America's true heroes.

TRIBUTE TO SIX HONOREE TEACHERS OF ST. RICHARDS SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of six exemplary veteran teachers who have combined experience of over 166 years in the teaching profession. In April these six teachers were honored with the Heart of St. Richards Parish award because of the positive influences they contribute to students, families, and the whole community of St. Richards Parish. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these teachers for their outstanding commitment to our Nation's youth. They stand as a symbol of the positive influences that teachers contribute to students every day across this great country.

The first teacher I am privileged to recognize is Mrs. Kathleen Riordan Pona who began teaching in 1959 with a class of 51 energetic second grade students. Mrs. Pona has served with 4 pastors and 7 principals who have helped her build the foundation that has continued the road of success at St. Richards School. Her 43 years of teaching is a shining light for teachers around the country who are beginning their careers in teaching and struggling to bring success to the classroom on an annual basis. This Nation is indebted to Mrs. Pona and teachers like her who have made teaching their first love.

Miss Joann Gaus began her teaching career in 1969 at St. Richards School and continually

requested new opportunities inside and outside of the classroom to benefit the lives of her students. Miss Gaus had the honor of taking an active part in the parochial education of her students preparing them for both Communion and Reconciliation. She has been a team leader in the teaching profession by being a coordinator for nearly every subject area and representing her fellow faculty members at meetings within the Archdiocesan Council.

Another outstanding teacher is Ms. Josephine Granat who has graciously and excitedly served her students for 32 years in teaching and 17 years at St. Richards. Her concern for her students is matched by the excitement and energy that she brings into the classroom. St. Richards is proud and lucky to have such a great teacher continuing her career at their institution of learning.

Mrs. Rita Zbella is currently in her 29th year of teaching at St. Richards School, where she came and taught in 1976. Mrs. Zbella has proven to be an essential asset to St. Richards where she is currently teaching the computer class, which ranges from 3-year-old preschoolers to 8th grade junior high students. Her commitment to her family and profession is representative of the sacrifices teachers make everyday in their lives.

Mr. Frank Trapani has been a teacher for 28 years, dedicating 20 of those years at St. Richards teaching religion and social studies. Individuals like Mr. Trapani enjoy the feeling of community, connection, brotherhood and sisterhood, and culture that a teacher receives when teaching at a parochial school. As a teacher, Mr. Trapani enjoys the privilege of being able to know his students, their parents, and the community that make up St. Richards Parish. He is truly grateful to have been able to dedicate his life to the teaching profession.

Finally, it is an honor to give praise to Mrs. Pamela Toppings, who began her teaching career in 1984 and has dedicated 21 years to St. Richards School. Her career is a promising one and her experience with St. Richards has been rewarding. St. Richards is fortunate to have a quality teacher as shown by Mrs. Toppings' dedication and hard work.

I am honored today to pay tribute to 6 wonderful and dedicated teachers who have shown quality service to a great institution, St. Richards School.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Kathleen Riordan Pona, Joann Gaus, Josephine Granat, Rita Zbella, Frank Trapani, Pamela Toppings, and the parish of St. Richards for the many years it has provided services to the community and wish them the very best in the years yet to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on May 10, 2005. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 162 and 163.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 6 million Jews who lost their lives in the Holocaust. I pay tribute to these innocent men, women, and children who died at the hands of the brutal Nazi regime.

While the Nazis were defeated by Allied Forces 60 years ago, the specter of bigotry, prejudice, and intolerance has tragically survived. The best way to honor the victims of the Holocaust is to ensure that such an event never happens again. Yet, with every year and every generation that passes this tragedy becomes less a reality and more a story to read about in a history book.

Everyone of us shares in the responsibility to make sure those who have died in the Holocaust have not done so in vain.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAY McKENNA

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and dedication of an East Hartford legend and community sports leader, the late Ray McKenna. In honor of his memory, I am submitting for the RECORD a letter to the editor by Don Pitkin in the East Hartford Gazette.

[From the East Hartford Gazette, Mar. 10, 2005]

LETTER TO THE EDITOR (By Don Pitkin)

TO THE EDITOR: Ray McKenna, the Sports Legend, icon, humanitarian, and more importantly, the friend we all lost a week ago. Much has been spoken and chronicled about his many accomplishments and the giving of himself. Any attempt to try and say more along those lines would be to repeat what has already been stated. Now is the time to try and envision what Ray has been, or is doing, since he left us. It is easily believed that on his journey to his new "Burnside," he is thinking of those he will be joining. How many will there be? What have they been doing? Are there any sports activities there? It soon became clear what he would do first. He would look for his old coach and mentor, Mr. John "Crafty Jack" McGrath. Once arrived it didn't take long. Everyone knew Mr. McGrath. After all, the residents in this area all came from East Hartford. Ray will be surrounded by those he has known for years. After the greetings and reminiscing is over, Ray gets right to the point. Are there any sports here? Are there are athletes from East Hartford around? There are! Who are they? Will you help me find them? And off Ray went with Coach. Ray spotted them even before he and Coach got there. Someone was banging out fly balls for Al Jordan and Johnny Lichtatz to chase down. Then it was a grounder to the left of Ed Cox at short. The scoop and the toss to Bill Wood at second and the throw to Long John Gorman at first. It was wide, but John snared it and made the swipe to tag the

imaginary runner. Over there, isn't that Andy Senicroppe pitching to Bill Luika? Then it was like they were all as one when they spotted Ray and came to greet him. It was talk, talk, yak, yak for a while. Ray brought up the subject of playing as a team. They were all from the 1938 team of East Hartford High. The only ones missing, Bobby Brown at third and Pitkin in right. Now the vision changes. It is a month later. Someone has filled the vacancies and Coach has found others from his past teams. They are all wearing the knicker length baseball pants. On the front of their shirts it is East Hartford, and on the back, Ray's '38 Team. They look pretty sharp as they work out. Word is that they have joined the Eastern Division of the newly formed Sky League. Yes! Ray had an important role in this endeavor. If any of you would like to see them play their first season, it is quite easy. Walk out into your yard, tilt your head back and look up into the blue. Now close your eyes. Did you see that? Loika threw out the man trying to steal. Just stay like that. This is only the third inning. There is more coming. You all know the rest of this vision. Mr. Editor. If you should happy to be in touch with Ray, please tell him that when I am finished here, I will join them with glove and shoes in hand. P.S. Good Luck guys! Thanks, Don Pitkin of East Hartford Note: Don Pitkin is a graduate of East Hartford High School, Class of 1938. He and East Hartford Gazette Sports Editor Ray McKenna were teammates.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 12th, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes on that day.

Had I been present I would have voted the following: "no" on rollcall vote number 169, the Weiner Amendment limiting the number of Urban Area Security Initiative grants during any given fiscal year to 50, and "yea" on rollcall vote number 170, final passage of H.R. 1544, the Faster & Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005.

THE "PRESERVING PATIENT ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS ACT OF 2005"

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Representative CLAY SHAW, to introduce the "Preserving Patient Access to Physicians Act of 2005."

This is an issue of great importance to Medicare beneficiaries and to the providers who care for them. Under current law, physicians are reimbursed according to a payment formula that uses the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). This formula led to a 5.4 percent cut in payments in 2002. Additional cuts in 2003, 2004, and 2005 were averted only after Congress intervened. The most recent short term intervention—in the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act—will expire in seven and a half

months on January 1, 2006. If Congress does not act soon, a 4.3 percent across-the-board cut will be imposed for 2006 and between 2007 and 2012 cuts would total approximately 30 percent. To restore predictability and stability to providers, Congress must devise a permanent solution that will stave off this impending crisis and its potential impact on beneficiaries' access to care.

The current physician payment formula is flawed for two primary reasons: first payment rates are calculated by using the SGR, which is in turn tied to our Nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). When the economy softens and GDP declines—unless physician volume and costs decline correspondingly—physician payment updates will be decreased. But this is a faulty measure of appropriate utilization, because the health care needs of our seniors do not decline during economic downturns. We faced such a situation in 2002, when the economy faced a downturn, yet the rising costs of caring for beneficiaries continued to rise. As a result, CMS cut the physician update by 5.4 percent.

Furthermore, the SGR system fails to recognize that several factors driving volume and cost increases are beyond providers' control. These include administrative coverage decisions that promote greater use of physician services, increases in the cost of the physician-administered drugs, and the addition since 1997 of valuable, life-saving preventive benefits, including mammograms, pap smears, colorectal and prostate cancer screening, and bone mass measurements for osteoporosis. In addition, the 2003 MMA added a physical examination for new beneficiaries, cholesterol and lipid screenings, and limited prescription drug coverage.

As a result of these initiatives, beneficiaries will visit their physicians more often to get prescriptions for newly-covered drugs, to be monitored for drugs' side effects, to receive newly-covered preventive services, or to receive follow-up care for conditions diagnosed by these services. These costs must be taken into account in determining payment updates for physicians. Physicians should not be penalized for increases in volume resulting from Congressional initiatives.

The volatility of Medicare reimbursement jeopardizes the ability of physician practices to make sound long-term financial decisions. Many physicians in my home State of Maryland are beginning to limit the number of Medicare patients they treat. Cuts in Medicare payments also jeopardize access to care for our military families and retirees, because the TRICARE program sets its rates based on Medicare's. In addition many State Medicaid programs and other third party payers rely on Medicare's system to set their rates.

Congress must replace the SGR with a methodology that assures adequate and appropriate payments as well as a stable update for Medicare providers. The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission in its March 2005 report and recommends implementation of a system where updates are based on a fair assessment of practice costs and adequacy of payment rates.

The Preserving Patient Access to Physicians Act of 2005 would set the Medicare physician payment update for 2006 at no less than 2.7 percent, in accordance with MedPAC's recommendation. For 2007 and beyond, it would replace the flawed physician

payment formula with a new formula that increases the update to reflect changes in the cost of providing care. There is bipartisan agreement that Congress needs to fix the physician payment formula permanently. Unfortunately, budgetary constraints have limited us to only short-term fixes. Our nation is facing a \$7 trillion debt, and this year's budget deficit exceeds \$500 billion. Given our Nation's fiscal situation and the budget rules on Congress, the likelihood that Congress will enact a permanent fix this year is diminished. But each year that we delay increases the ten-year cost of the bill, and Congress must move beyond a band-aid approach to a more comprehensive, responsible and permanent solution to this flawed payment system. This is an ambitious bill, but one that I believe is necessary to initiate serious debate on this matter. Congress must make sure that the enactment of a solution for physician reimbursement is done in a fiscally responsible manner.

MedPAC's March 2005 report also notes that neither the SGR nor any previous mechanism has been successful in moderating growth of physician services through the use of volume targets. Specifically, according to MedPAC, "volume has continued to grow and legislated targets have not succeeded in differentiating between beneficial volume growth and increases in inappropriate services. The current sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula has resulted in both budgetary and policy problems." Congress must devise a way to control unwarranted growth in services without compromising the delivery of needed medical care.

I also want to address an issue of great importance to our beneficiaries—rising Medicare premiums and copayments. Increases in Medicare Part B premiums are set by law based on the actuarial value of the coverage. Increases in Part B costs in turn increase the monthly premiums and copayments that beneficiaries must pay. I recognize that this bill is no exception to the rule. CMS has just reported that monthly premiums for Part B will rise to an estimated 14 percent to \$89.20 in 2006, largely because of an unexpected 15 percent increase in spending on physician visits and other outpatient services in 2004. According to CMS, the higher spending levels can be attributed to longer office visits, more services provided, an increase in laboratory tests and imaging services, and higher use of physician-administered drugs. CMS also reported that enrollment growth and a 1.5 percent increase in Medicare physician reimbursements last year were not significant factors in the overall spending increase.

The annual cost-of-living increases in our seniors' and disabled persons' Social Security checks are not sufficient to cover rapidly increasing Medicare premiums. Furthermore, because the prescription drug coverage enacted in 2003 will be administered by private plans that will set their own premiums, seniors do not know what they will have to pay for a drug plan premiums next year or in the years to come. So, in addition to fixing SGR, Congress must also act to protect beneficiaries from sharp increases in premiums. We must make sure that seniors do not pay the price for appropriate increases to health care providers. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I will continue to work with my colleagues and with all groups who want to preserve access and affordability for beneficiaries

while achieving fairness in our reimbursement system.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR.
JUSTIN COLLIER

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Mr. Justin Collier, who has been named the 2004–2005 Outstanding AG/HEC Ambassador. Mr. Collier is from McMinnville, TN, he is currently a student at Tennessee Tech University studying Agriculture with concentrations in horticulture and nursery and landscape management.

Mr. Collier received an engraved plaque and a \$500 cash award which was presented by Don Elkins, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology and AG/HEC Ambassadors advisor, at the Agriculture Awards Banquet on April 15, 2005.

Mr. Collier began his work in recruiting and public relations even before he was officially an AG/HEC Ambassador. He started speaking to several groups of new students and their parents in the summer of 2004 during SOAR sessions. He also visited 7 high schools on recruitment visits during the year, where he gave presentations to classes about Tennessee Tech, the College of Agriculture and Human Ecology, and career opportunities available to Agriculture/Human Ecology graduates.

In addition, he gave official welcome tours to several groups of campus visitors. During these tours he hosted several individuals and small groups of campus visitors and gave them a complete campus tour, which included a farm tour. His efforts also included writing, emailing and calling numerous prospective students. In 2005 Mr. Collier participated in LEAD 2005, an Ambassador Leadership Conference held in February at the University of Georgia in Athens.

Regarding his experiences as an AG/HEC Ambassador in 2004–05, Mr. Collier states, "The recruiting and other activities have allowed me to share my love for the College with many people. I have met more new people and made more friends than I could have possibly imagined. Having had the opportunity to serve as an AG/HEC Ambassador has been an honor and will definitely go down as one of the most memorable and exciting experiences during my time at TTU."

IN HONOR OF ARMY SERGEANT
ADAM PLUMONDRE AND ARMY
SPECIALIST CLINTON GERTSON,
BOTH OF WHOM WERE KILLED IN
COMBAT DURING OPERATION
IRAQI FREEDOM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, SGT Adam Plumondore of Gresham, Oregon, was killed

in action on 16 February 2005, and SPC Clinton Gertson of Houston Texas, was killed in action on 19 February 2005. Both men were snipers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Ft. Lewis, Washington. Lieutenant Colonel Michael E. Kurilla commands the 1–24 Infantry Regiment and he shares his comments made at the memorial service for these Great Americans.

GEN Bergner, COL Brown, SGTs Major, friends of Deuce Four, and most importantly the men of Deuce Four. Thank you for coming today to honor two of the finest warriors that I have had the privilege and honor to serve beside.

GEN William T. Sherman stated that War is Hell. My friends, he was right. It affects all those in its all consuming grasp. It affects us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually—it does not differentiate between civilian or soldier. No one wishes for war—to do so is sheer madness. GEN MacArthur said it best—The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.

To the men of Deuce Four, we now honor our 7th warrior to die defending the freedom of a people we neither know nor completely understand. But such action is truly the nobility of our profession. We sacrifice all for a people that do not fully understand the extent of our sacrifice. A people that had never tasted the sweet waters of freedom until 30 Jan of this year. And it is because of your valiant actions, the valiant actions of heroes like SGT Adam Plumondore and SPC Clint Gertson.

I would like to tell you about what kind of men they were as I remembered them—for these were extraordinary men that accomplished extraordinary things.

Clint Gertson was the first man I met from Deuce Four three weeks before I took command of the Battalion. I was visiting Deuce Four in Feb 2004 conducting live fires at Yakima Training Center. I approached the support by fire position and this 6'4" square jawed PFC stood up and greeted me with that big Texas smile and asked me if I wanted a clinic on how to shoot; he subsequently proceeded to hit a man sized target at 500m. I immediately knew that I would love this battalion and that if the rest of the soldiers were half as impressive as he was, I would have the best battalion in the Army.

Gerty became a main stay of motivation for me. If one ever needed to know why it is a privilege and honor to command the sons and daughters of America they only needed to meet Clint Gertson.

I remember 11 Nov like it was yesterday. What started as a raid to kill or capture an HVT turned into a 6 hour firefight with 60 insurgents, leaving 25 confirmed enemy dead and estimates of up to 40 killed. This was

only because of men like Clint Gertson. We were taking significant small arms, RPG and mortar fire when we moved to the top of a building to get better fields of fire. As we arrived at the top of the building, I heard the distinctive bark of the .50 Cal sniper rifle from the corner and looked over to see Gerty in all his glory. Gerty and the sniper crew were killing RPG gunners as they moved between buildings in an attempt to reposition on Apache company. At one point he turned around and gave that big Texas smile and turned back to administering death to the enemy.

I also remember one month later when Gerty missed a shot on an enemy mortar team only 300m from his hide site (I think it was closer to 250m)—I teased him that he needed more range time but he quickly reminded me that at least it scared the shit out of the enemy to drop the mortar tube and we did capture it. Good point Gerty. Clint Gertson was the kind of man that made you proud to say that you served with him.

SGT Adam Plumondore was also such a man. An extraordinary leader that did extraordinary things. I had the privilege to observe the actions of SGT Plumondore on a daily basis—and stand back in awe and wonder.

Plum was a walking uniform violation—but strangely, that is one of the things I loved about this man. I do not think a day would go by where I did not tell him to roll down his sleeves, buckle his chin strap, or trim up his Delta Force mustache. Sure enough, he would make the correction and in the thick of a fire fight there would be Plum with sleeves up, chin strap unbuckled, a big smile on his face and a weapon that never missed—unless he was firing 40mm from his M203 which he often reminded me was an area weapon.

I remember 3 Dec like it was yesterday. Sixty to seventy enemy had set up a 2km ambush along Route Tampa and the Recon platoon and TAC found itself running a 2km gauntlet of 15 IEDs, over 30 RPGs, hand grenades and significant machinegun and AK47 fire. Six soldiers were wounded including SPC Moore who was blown from the hatch of his Stryker that was now running on 8 flat tires—without missing a beat SGT Plumondore immediately jumped up and manned the MK19 and suppressed and killed enemy positions allowing the platoon to get casualties to the CSH and then launch a Battalion counter attack that killed 22 enemy.

I remember 11 Dec like it was yesterday. As we were beginning to exfil from destroying a weapons cache a suicide car bomb slammed into the side of Hunter 1. The entire vehicle was in flames, 6 soldiers were wounded. The enemy then engaged with mortars, RPGs, and machinegun fire from 3 directions. Without even thinking twice, SGT Plumondore jumped from his vehicle with fire extinguishers in his hands and his weap-

on slung on his back. Without hesitation he began to put out the Stryker on fire and assist in the evacuation of the wounded from the Stryker. The fire out, Plum then turned his attention to the enemy and began to engage them with precision fires. Because of his actions, Plum saved soldiers lives and the Stryker did not burn to the ground—in fact his determined face was back in the gunner's hatch of his vehicle engaging an enemy RPG team that tried to ambush the platoon during exfil—complete with sleeves rolled up to the elbows.

How do you honor such heroes as Clint Gertson and Adam Plumondore? You honor them by telling the stories of their friendship, camaraderie, and fierce bravery. You honor them by continuing to fight to protect the man on your left and right who would lay down his life so that others might live. You honor them by continuing in this noble endeavor providing freedom to a people we do not know or understand the sacrifices that are made—but that is what makes America the greatest nation on earth.

We will miss them both terribly, but I know that our Deuce Four snipers, Gerty and Plum, are looking down from Heaven continuing to look out for us—that voice you hear in your head is Gerty calling the winds, Plum ensuring you have the correct distance, and both always reminding you to always look for the positive in life.

On this day, we ask almighty God to grant us patience and steadfast resolve in all that is to come. May God Bless Deuce Four, 1st Brigade, and may God Bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this statement for the record and regret that I could not be present today, Thursday May 12, 2005 to vote on rollcall vote nos. 171, 172 and 173 due to a family medical emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted: “yea” on rollcall vote no. 171 on H.R. 627—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Putnam Avenue in Hamden, Connecticut, as the “Linda White-Epps Post Office”; “yea” on rollcall vote no. 172 on H. Res. 266—supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day; and, “yea” on rollcall vote no 173 on H.R. 2107—the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Maintenance Fund Act of 2005.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 18

8:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine issues relating to protecting the judiciary at home and in the courthouse.

SD-226

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider comprehensive energy legislation.

SD-366

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine eco-terrorism specifically examining the Earth Liberation Front ("ELF") and the Animal Liberation Front ("ALF").

SD-406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine FEMA's response to the 2004 Florida hurricanes, and its impact on taxpayers.

SD-562

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine issues relating to the taking of land into trust.

SH-216

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Regulation NMS designed to strengthen our national market system for equity securities, focusing on recent market developments.

SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David A. Sampson, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, and John J. Sullivan, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

SR-253

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the proposed Workforce Investment Act Amendments of 2005, and pending nominations.

SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Science and Space Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine human spaceflight.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

MAY 19

9 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing regarding weapons proliferation, terrorism and democracy in Iran.

S-407 Capitol

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider comprehensive energy legislation.

SD-366

Environment and Public Works

Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Endangered Species Act.

SD-406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Philip J. Perry, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security; to be followed by a hearing on the nominations of Carolyn L. Gallagher, of Texas, and Louis J. Giuliano, of New York, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, and Tony Hammond, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission.

SD-562

Appropriations

Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-124

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To continue hearings to examine Regulation NMS designed to strengthen our national market system for equity securities, focusing on recent market developments.

SD-538

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine weapons proliferation, terrorism and democracy in Iran.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Intelligence

To hold a closed meeting to discuss certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

1 p.m.

Foreign Relations

International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 883, to direct the Secretary of State to carry out activities that promote the adoption of technologies that reduce greenhouse gas intensity in developing countries, while promoting economic development.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the need for a constitutional amendment relating to the protection of marriage.

SD-226

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine accountability and results in Federal budgeting, focusing on steps being taken to ensure that federal programs are effective and accountable and to explore in-depth the Program Assessment and Rating Tool (PART), which is used by OMB to assess and evaluate federal programs.

SD-562

MAY 24

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider comprehensive energy legislation.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine S. 529, to designate a United States Anti-Doping Agency and to examine the competitive pressures that lead amateur athletes to use drugs, the sources of such drugs, and the science of doping.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Education and Early Childhood Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine issues relating to American history.

SD-430

3 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine money laundering and terror financing issues in the Middle East.

SD-538

MAY 25

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider comprehensive energy legislation.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

SR-328A

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S.J. Res. 15, to acknowledge a long history of official depredations and ill-conceived policies by the United States Government regarding Indian tribes and offer an apology to all Native Peoples on behalf of the United States.

SR-485

MAY 26		10 a.m.	SEPTEMBER 20
9:30 a.m.	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	10 a.m.	
Energy and Natural Resources	To hold hearings to examine issues relat-	Veterans' Affairs	
Business meeting to consider comprehen-	ing to the 21st century workplace.	To hold joint hearings with the House	
sive energy legislation.	SD-430	Committee on Veterans Affairs to ex-	
		amine the legislative presentation of	
		the American Legion.	
	SD-366		345 CHOB